



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue #2

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

17 May 2012

Pest Patrol Hotline

If you do not have access to this newsletter but want the information contained herein each week, there is a toll-free hotline for insect problems updated here. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number (877) 285-8525 and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Insect Scouting Clinics

We are going to offer an in-field insect scouting and management clinic for early-season insect problems in cotton and soybeans next Friday (25 May) here at EREC – nothing real “fancy”. We will be focusing on thrips in cotton and kudzu bug in soybeans. I will have a short plot tour starting promptly at 10AM and ending by noon. Lunch will NOT be provided...on your own on that. **Let me know via email if you plan to attend.**

News from Above the Lakes

Trish DeHond, county agent covering Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, and Marlboro Counties, reported that “there were kudzu bugs flying all around the grandstands at Darlington Raceway during the Southern 500. We're still receiving plenty of homeowner phone calls about these on buildings. Growers are concerned about how much of a problem they will be, and asking whether to even plant soybeans.”

David DeWitt, county agent covering Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter Counties, reported that he has “not observed many issues at this time. Walked through some of early planted beans in Lee and did not see kudzu bugs at this time. The early-planted cotton looks clean for now but most I looked at had been sprayed.”

News from Below the Lakes

Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Dorchester and Berkeley Counties, reported that he has “looked at some cotton this week with some light-to-moderate thrips injury and knows of some growers that are treating for thrips. Got some calls from some home gardeners in Dorchester County concerning kudzu bugs infesting snap beans. However, the soybeans I have looked at this week did not have any kudzu bugs in them yet, sure that will change soon.”

News from the Piedmont/Upstate

No news to report this week.

The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer. Clemson University Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture, South Carolina Counties, Extension Service, Clemson, South Carolina.

Public Service Activities

The mention of any commercial product in this publication does not imply its endorsement by Clemson University over other products not named, nor does the omission imply that they are not satisfactory.



Cotton Situation

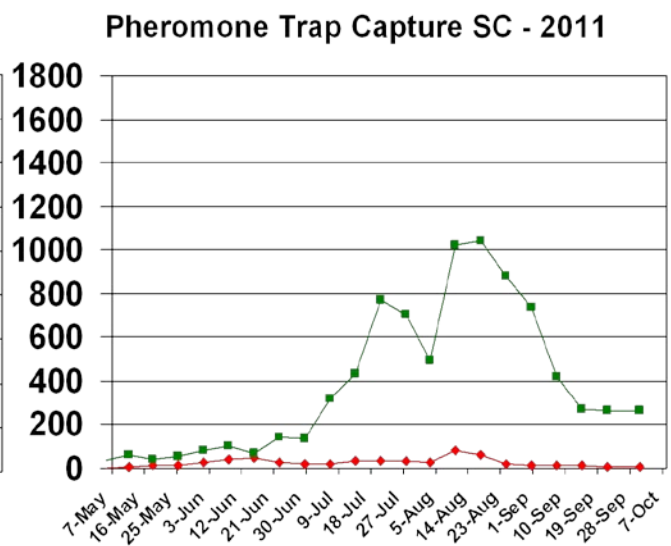
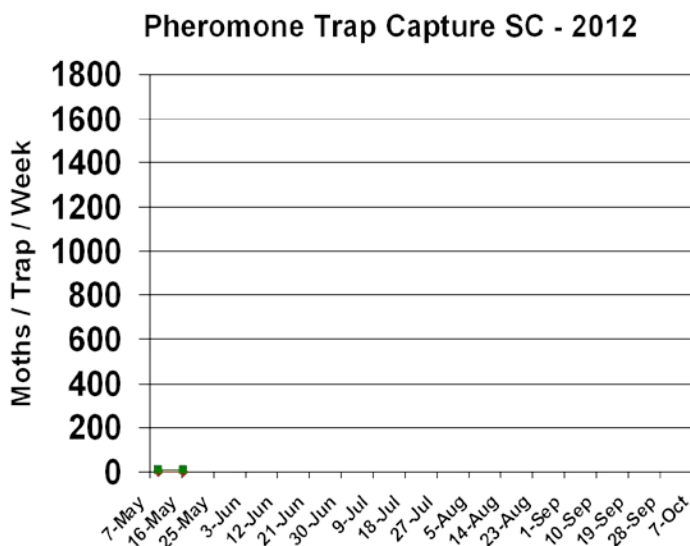
As of 13 May 2012, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 46% planted, close to where we were in 2011 at 44% and the 5-yr average of 41%. The recent rains have helped tremendously, and soil moisture levels in the state have improved at 9% very short, 33% short, and 57% adequate, and 1% surplus. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2011 for reference. Current numbers are very low. In general, numbers were high last year but not as high as those observed during 2010 that topped out on this chart scale. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a very limited number of non-

Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area where I use these data as an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Thrips in Cotton

Aside from oddball cases of snails, beetles, and grasshoppers, we are pretty much dealing with thrips primarily in cotton right now. We have received some “sky moisture”, and the crop looks good, but there are still plenty of thrips out there. The temperatures have certainly turned off cooler, and that has slowed cotton growth, allowing more thrips injury to be expressed. It is very important to check fields now in which stands are establishing. Add a thrips insecticide to the tank if thresholds are met or exceeded on cotton at 4 leaves or less.

The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer. Clemson University Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture, South Carolina Counties, Extension Service, Clemson, South Carolina.

Public Service Activities

The mention of any commercial product in this publication does not imply its endorsement by Clemson University over other products not named, nor does the omission imply that they are not satisfactory.

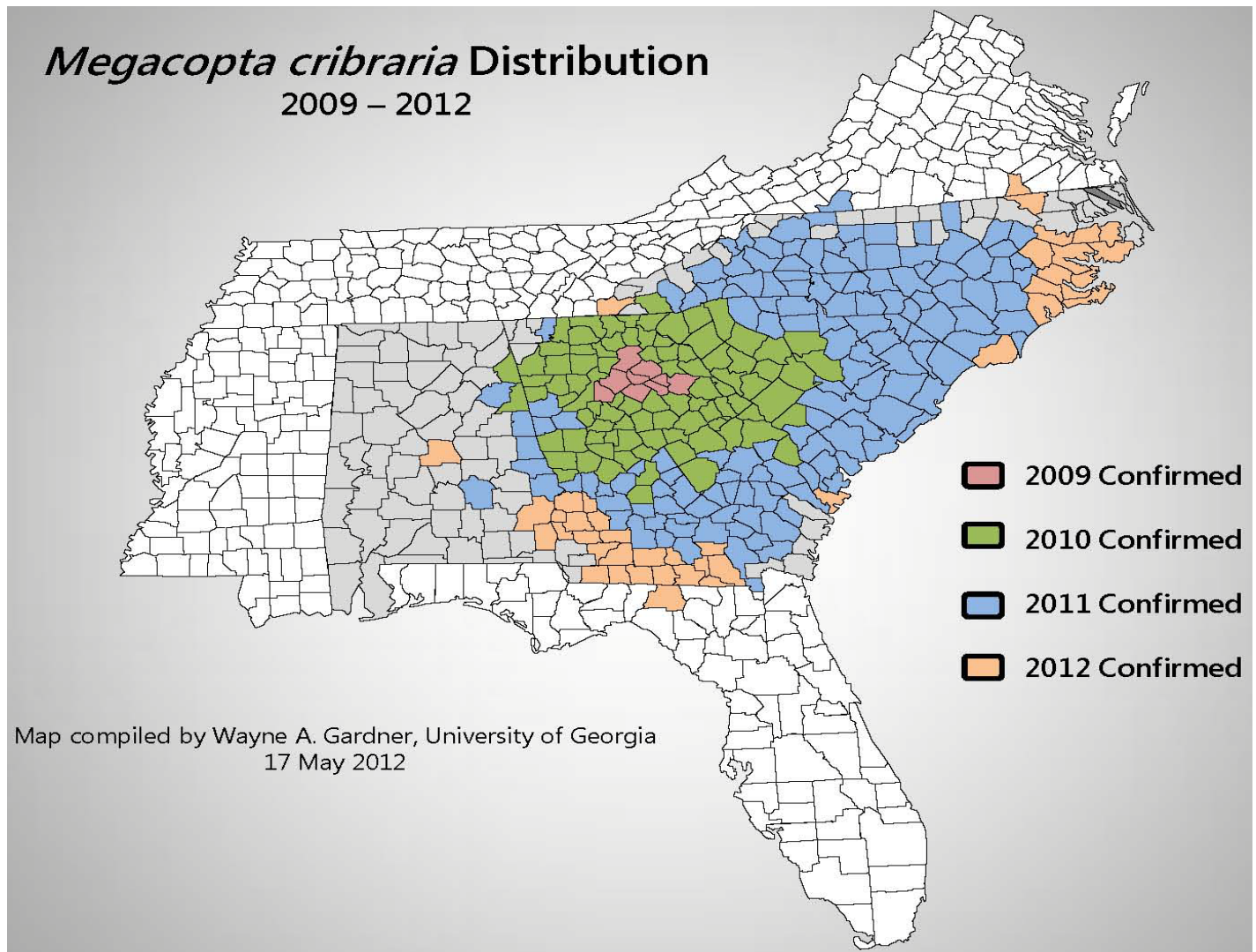


Soybean Situation

As of 13 May 2012, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 38% planted, ahead of where we were last year at 29% and the 5-yr average of 21%. About 20% of planted soybeans have emerged, ahead of last year at 10% and the 5-yr average of 9%. Overall conditions for soybeans were similar to those in cotton. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

Below is the latest map of the distribution of the kudzu bug, *Megacopta cribraria*, in the Southeast. Many thanks to Dr. Wayne Gardner (UGA) for updating and supplying this map every week. Florida now joins the list of states (6) reporting this invasive species. In order of appearance of the pest, that now includes Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Virginia, and Florida.



The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer. Clemson University Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture, South Carolina Counties, Extension Service, Clemson, South Carolina.

Public Service Activities

The mention of any commercial product in this publication does not imply its endorsement by Clemson University over other products not named, nor does the omission imply that they are not satisfactory.



Here are some things we have learned about the kudzu bug:

- 🐾 It has rapidly spread in the Southeast since first detection in late 2009.
- 🐾 One of its favorite cultivated hosts is soybean, and they can cause economic loss if untreated.
- 🐾 It has at least two distinct generations (from egg to adult) per year...but maybe three this year? One generation completes development on kudzu and other wild hosts, the other completes development on soybean, and there might be time for a third generation because of the early/warm spring.
- 🐾 Only adults overwinter, so they are the ones we have been dealing with so far this year.
- 🐾 Adults emerge from overwintering sites in the spring and start depositing eggs on hosts.
- 🐾 Early-season reproductive hosts include clovers, wisteria, kudzu, etc, and now early-planted soybean.
- 🐾 Most broad-spectrum insecticides labeled for use in soybeans will provide good control of the species.
- 🐾 See (http://www.clemson.edu/extension/kudzubugs/pdfs/kudzu_bug_insecticide_soybeans.pdf) for our recommendations for insecticides in soybeans.
- 🐾 The infested fields that I am seeing right now are covered with kudzu bugs. These are not isolated plants in the field. Check out these photos. See the bugs down the row? You can see them on the plants in the background also. We will treat half of this field early next week and report back.



The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer. Clemson University Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture, South Carolina Counties, Extension Service, Clemson, South Carolina.

Public Service Activities

The mention of any commercial product in this publication does not imply its endorsement by Clemson University over other products not named, nor does the omission imply that they are not satisfactory.



Here are some things we do not know yet about the kudzu bug:

- ❁ Before we began this season, we were confident that we could mitigate most yield losses with one or two well-timed applications of an appropriate insecticide during reproductive stages of soybean. And those applications would likely coincide with trips that we probably need to make anyway. But now, we could be looking at an additional spray during early season...jury still out on that. We just do not know if these early-season infestations will impact yield. Right now, the infestations are primarily overwintered adults dying of old age. How long will they last? They are leaving plenty of eggs, though.
- ❁ We have tentative threshold recommendations from our work last year, but those are subject to minute-by-minute refinement at the current pace of change in the field.
- ❁ Etc.

The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer. Clemson University Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture, South Carolina Counties, Extension Service, Clemson, South Carolina.

Public Service Activities

The mention of any commercial product in this publication does not imply its endorsement by Clemson University over other products not named, nor does the omission imply that they are not satisfactory.



Visit our kudzu bug webpage for the latest information on this new pest. We have a new fact sheet for homeowners, the latest map of its distribution in the Southeast, videos, recommendations for managing the pest in soybeans, and more.

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/kudzubugs/index.html>



Eggs



Nymphs



Adults



Pest Management Handbook - 2012

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2012 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:
<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

Need More Information?

Log on to the following web pages to view important recommendations, data, and historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

For more Extension information:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For past newsletters:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist